selection process, evaluated sites in different States of the country. After evaluation of sites by SSC, the clearances of the sites on environmental angle from Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) and on safety angle from Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) are obtained before proposals in this regard are put up for consideration by the Government.

(b) The SSC has, during the period 2001-04, evaluated sites in different States, including Madhya Pradesh, for setting up Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) in future, based on the details forwarded by the State Governments. With regard to setting up of NPPs at inland sites (as in the case with Madhya Pradesh) in the near future, priority is to fully utilize the potential of existing sites so that the available infrastructure can be used, large rehabilitation of population is avoided and NPPs are set up in least possible time.

(c) The nuclear power stations are Central Sector Projects and accordingly all funds for nuclear power generation are provided to the Department of Atomic Energy and not to the respective States.

New Atomic Power Plants

2220. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pelsed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the wake of success of peace process initiated for cordial relations with neighbouring countries, the chances of use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes have brightened;

(b) if so, the quantity of atomic energy likely to be made available for use in medical purposes and production of power; and

(c) the details of new atomic power plant likely to be established in the near future, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) India is committed to the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. India's efforts to improve relations with its neighbouring countries stand on their own and are not linked to efforts to increase the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

(b) In the medical field, radioisotopes are used for various medical treatments, such as diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Medical

applications include radiopharmaceuticals, brachytherapy wires, radioimmunoassay kits and various other products and services. The Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT) is responsible for the processing of radioisotopes for supply to medical and industrial users across the country. All the nuclear medicine centres and cancer hospitals in the country are using the radioisotope products supplied by BRIT. In addition, medical disposables and other surgical items used in hospitals are sterilized by using gamma radiation. The ISOMED unit of BRIT is providing such gamma sterilization services for the medical products. The Blood Irradiator units produced by BRIT are used in many hospitals for the irradiation of blood prior to transfusion.

As regards production of power, there are fourteen (14) nuclear power reactors with a total nuclear power capacity of 2770 MWe in operation in the country.

(c) There are nine nuclear power reactor units with a total capacity of 4460 MWe under construction. The details of the location, capacity and scheduled date of commercial operation of each of the project is given below:

Project	Capacity MWe	Scheduled date of Commercial Operation
Tarapur Atomic Power Project Units—3 & 4, Tarapur, Maharashtra	2 x 540	Unit-4 — Mar 2006 Unit-3 — Jan 2007
Kaiga Atomic Power Project Units—3 & 4, Kaiga, Karnataka	2 x 220	Unit-3 — Mar 2007 Unit-4 — Sep 2007
Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project Units—1 & 2, Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu	2 x 1000	Unit-1— Dec. 2007 Unit-2 — Dec. 2008
Rajasthan Atomic Power Project Units—5 & 6, Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	2 x 220	Unit-5 — Aug 2007 Unit-6 — Feb 2008
Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor, Kalpakkam	1 x 500	Mar 2011

Completion of Kaiga Atomic Power Project

2221. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether technical snags are delaying the completion of Kaiga Atomic Power Project in Karnataka;